(b) the competent authority for fixing rates for snacks etc.

(c) whether Government are aware that the rates of standard items are sold at double the rates at these outlets;

(d) whether it is a fact that these outlets do not display rate list at the countries; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Contracts are awarded through call of open tenders from the eligible parties who meet the prescribed criteria.

(b) Airports Authority of India approves the rates submitted by the Licensees.

(c) Stray complaints are received about charging higher rates at these outlets. Immediate and appropriate actions are taken on such complaints.

(d) and (e) As per the terms and conditions of award, all the licensees are required to display the rate list. Adherence to this is ensured by carrying-out periodical inspections from time to time.

New Air Services in Rajasthan

1379. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to start new air services to certain tourist destinations in Rajasthan (like Chittor, Nathdwara, Ajmer etc.) where no air services are available; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such new air services would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport

services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commerical viability as such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. However, there are no operational airfields at Chittor, Nathdwara and Ajmer.

Increase in Civil Air Traffic

1380. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in civil air traffic in the country during the period 2001-2005;

(b) if so, the details of the increase reflected at major airports and the projected air traffic during the next five year, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the infrastructural demands at the major airports for handling the air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total passenger traffic (in million) at Mumbai airport was 12.18, 11.47, 12.26, 13.28 and 15.67 for the year 2000-01. 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The passenger traffic was 8.93, 8.50, 9.10, 10.39 and 12.78 million at Delhi airport for the year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively. At Chennai airport, the passenger traffic was 4.07, 3.78, 4.16, 4.56 and 5.63 million for the year 2000-01,2001 -02,2002-03,2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. Bangalore airport handled 2.44, 2.28, 2.76, 3.18 and 4.11 million passenger during the year 2000-01,2001 -02,2002-03,2003-04, and 2004-05, respectively. The passenger traffic at Kolkata airport was 2.69, 2.56, 2.83, 3.09 and 3.49 million for the year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. Hyderabad airport handled 1.61,1.68,1.91,2.21 and 2.85 million passengers for the year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The growth of civil aviation sector over the next five years will, *inter-alia,* depend upon the gross domestic product growth, aviation related demand and supply side factors etc.